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RIC ASSISTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

A Virginia Extension Horticulturist requested funding sources in September 1988 for the development of an ornamental horticulture industry for southwestern Virginia counties. The objective of this project was to increase nursery stock in the Mid-Atlantic states, especially the Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC, corridor.

He had received some initial funding (less than \$10,000) from Tennessee Valley Authority programs the previous year.

RIC sent him federal program information, including TVA programs and private funding information. He applied to several programs and received \$40,000 funding from a TVA program identified by RIC.

The project set up 35 demonstration projects in 25 counties in Virginia. Three of the counties already have nursery stock growing in them as of April 1989. Future plans include setting up a cooperative of nurserymen.

RIC GRADUATE INTERN

Diane Brigham joined the RIC staff for a three month internship in May. Mrs. Brigham has ten years library experience in Nevada. Her experience includes working for the Lahontan Basin Medical Library, the Ormsby Public Library, and the Nevada Supreme Court Library. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Humboldt State University, and in August she will receive a Master of Library Science degree from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. She plans to return to her family in Nevada and continue her career with a position in a rural library.



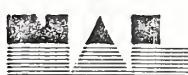
FORTY-NINE STATES AND GUAM PARTICIPATE IN THE RIC PROJECT

Massachusetts named Rick Feldman as its new RIC State Coordinator while New Hampshire designated Jerry Howe as its new coordinator. South Carolina, which had

previously designated Verne House as its coordinator, also named Ellen Reneke as the RIC State Co-coordinator. Minnesota chose Randy Cantrell and Missouri selected Jim Preston to succeed John Sem and Tom Henderson, respectively, as the new RIC State Coordinators.

TWENTY-TWO STATE LIBRARIES NETWORK WITH RIC

Eight new state library representatives have been selected, bringing the total number of state libraries which are networking with the Rural Information Center to twenty-two. The new representatives are: Judy Shepard, Alabama; Preston Levi, Illinois; David Lewis, Indiana; Tim Lynch, Nebraska; Thom Hendricks, North Dakota; Anne Ramos, Texas; Mary Struckmeyer, Wisconsin; and Jerry Krois, Wyoming. New Mexico and Pennsylvania also expressed an interest in joining the RIC state library network.



RIC OUTREACH

• Exhibits

National Extension Workshop for "Tourism / Travel Development and Its Application for Rural and Community Revitalization," Minneapolis, MN, May 10-12. Don L. Nelson, Extension Service National Program Leader for Community Systems, coordinated the exhibit.

National Association of Regional Council's Annual Conference, on "Regionalism -- The Decade Ahead," Houston, TX, May 14-16.

• Committee Appointments

The National Agricultural Library named Patricia John as its representative on the USDA

Rural Development "Revitalization Task Force" chaired by John Musgrave, the Farmers Home State Director from West Virginia. The task force reported to Roland Vautour, Under Secretary, Small Community and Rural Development.

The task force reviewed all USDA rural development programs to identify any USDA areas of duplication and/or overlap. The task force has issued a two volume report entitled: *A Hard Look at USDA's Rural Development Programs and the Recommendations*. One of the five recommendations given for the segment to improve USDA's ability to implement rural programs was to: "Strengthen the Rural Information Center and Encourage Its Use as a USDA Resource." There were a total of 18 recommendations.

FY89 RURAL INFORMATION CENTER ANALYSIS

- User location
- Rural topics
- Affiliation

States, Territories, Etc. Submitting Highest Number of Requests

District of Columbia	13%
Maryland.....	8%
Texas.....	5%
New Mexico & Virginia, (4% each)	8%
Illinois, Iowa, Montana, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin (3% each)	15%
Alabama, California, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Foreign Countries (2% each)	36%
All Others (23 states).....	15%

Breakdown of Rural Revitalization Questions

Economic Viability.....	59%
Quality of Life/Natural Resources	25%
Local Government Services	12%
Leadership/Community Change.....	4%

Affiliation Breakdown:

State and County Extension Staff.....	43%
USDA Officials and Individuals (13% each).....	26%
Universities.....	7%
Libraries.....	6%
Community/Rural/Economic Organizations & Businesses (4% each).....	8%
Federal Officials (non-USDA) & Public Interest Groups (3% each)	6%
State Officials	2%
Congress and Foreign Officials (1% each).....	2%